

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0012] bridging pages 4-5 as follows:

[0012] The balance of the composition is iron (Fe) and those impurities and tramp or trace elements that are inevitably included during the melting of a material charge from which the steel alloy may be ultimately produced. Preferably, any additional element in an amount which does not alter the suitability of the alloy for use in plastic injection molds may be considered either an impurity or trace element. The function of each of the intentionally included elements in the composition is as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0018] bridging pages 5-6 as follows:

[0018] Phosphorous adds to the strength and hardenability of the steel alloy. However, the phosphorous in the steel alloy is typically reduced to the lowest level possible to avoid brittleness in the steel alloy. For this application, the phosphorus is intentionally not reduced to extremely low levels. An upper limit of about 0.02% phosphorous was specified to take advantage of phosphorus' slight contribution to corrosion resistance in the steel alloy. More importantly, however, the upper limit of phosphorous was specified for its positive ~~affects~~ effects on machinability. The level of phosphorous may preferably be specified at about 0.01% as a balance between its enhancement of machinability and its inducement of brittleness in the steel ~~allow~~ alloy.

Please replace paragraph [0026] on page 7 as follows:

[0026] Nickel is a ferrite strengthener in the steel alloy. Nickel also slightly improves the corrosion resistance of the steel alloy, particularly for the plastic injection mold 10

application for which the steel alloy is intended. Such resistance in the steel alloy is desirable in order to mitigate deleterious effects of reducing chemicals contained in plastic. In addition, the nickel may counteract negative effects of hot working that the ~~copper~~ copper may create. Nickel also increases the hardenability and impact strength of the steel alloy. Therefore, an upper limit of 0.15% of ~~copper~~ nickel has been specified. However, the level of nickel may preferably be specified at about 0.075% in order to limit negative effects of the nickel on overall machinability.

Please replace paragraph [0041] bridging pages 11-12 as follows:

[0041] Because the as-rolled and air cooled material may be slightly harder than required for the tool, the hardness may be adjusted by heat treatment or tempering. Advantageously, such tempering does not require high temperatures that otherwise result in the formation of heavy scaling on the metal surfaces. Furthermore, the tempering step also relaxes or removes residual cooling stresses that may remain in the material from the original hot rolling process. It is contemplated that the tool may be tempered to a ~~harness~~ hardness in the range of from about 277 to about 311 BHN such that the tool is suitable for use in plastic injection mold 10 tooling such as a manifold 16 for such tooling.